



### Mount Underwood Wildfire Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated on August 24, 2025

**Q: Where can I get more information about the Mount Underwood Wildfire?**

A: You can stay informed through:

1. [BC Wildfire Service](#) website
2. ACRD Website [2025 Mount Underwood Wildfire](#)
3. [DriveBC](#)
4. ACRD VoyentAlert! (sign up) for [Emergency Alerts](#)
5. ACRD Emergency Program [Facebook](#) Page

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**Q. What area(s) are under Evacuation Order?** (Updated August 23, 2025)

A: The evacuation order map can be found here: [2025 Mount Underwood Wildfire](#) and includes China Creek trails (within the regional park).

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**Q. When will I be able to return to the China Creek Campground?** (Updated August 23, 2025)

A: China Creek Campground and Marina has resumed full operations. The Franklin River Road between Port Alberni and the campground has re-opened.

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**Q. Where can I go to get relief from the smoke?** (Updated August 23, 2025)

A: The Air Quality Relief Centre located at the Alberni Valley Multiplex, 3737 Roger Street, is no longer open but can be reactivated if needed. The Emergency Operations Centre will continue to monitor air quality and can re-open operations quickly, should conditions change.



The Bread of Life Centre located at 3130 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, remains open for 24 hours and is operated by the Salvation Army.

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**Q. What area(s) are under Evacuation ALERT? (Updated August 23, 2025)**

A: Headquarters Bay Recreation Community (access south via Youbou route) and China Creek Campground and Marina (access via Franklin River Road) remain under an Evacuation Alert.

Please refer to ACRD [Emergency Alerts](#) for a map of the full area included in the Evacuation Alert.

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**Q. What does an Evacuation Alert mean?**

A: The alert is issued to prepare you to evacuate your premises or property should an Evacuation Order be made. Residents will be given as much advance notice as possible before an evacuation is ordered; however, you may receive limited notice due to changing conditions.

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**Q. Can insurance provide more support than ESS?**

A: In many cases, home, or tenant insurance offers more comprehensive support than ESS. Contact your provider or the Insurance Bureau of Canada at 1-844-227-5422.

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**Q. How long will the Evacuation Order/Evacuation Alert be in place?**

A: That information is not available at this time. Please subscribe to VoyentAlert! To receive alerts. Please use verified sources of information when looking for updates

You can find out what Alerts and Orders are in place on the ACRD's [Emergency Alerts](#) page.



### Q. Is the road between Port Alberni and Bamfield open? (Updated August 23, 2025)

A: Bamfield Main (Franklin River Road) from **Franklin Camp to Port Alberni is CLOSED** - from KM 6 (south of China Creek Campground) to KM 25 (north of Headquarters Bay). Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) checkpoints are at the closure points.

- Geotechnical assessment is underway – steep slopes in the area are unstable and as a result it is too dangerous to permit public traffic on that section of the road.

For current road conditions, visit: [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca)

- The route from **Bamfield through to Youbou is OPEN.**
  - The Ditidaht First Nation have activated flaggers at two checkpoints along the route – at the head of Lake Cowichan and at the Nitinat Junction. This is to assist travelers in their journey and advise them of any further interruptions to designated routes.
  - Graders have been working on the road to reestablish/maintain surface condition.
  - Signage in the area is being actively reviewed and changes made where necessary to improve communications.
  - For more information on the closures, go to the [BC Gov News Release](#).

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### Q. What do I need to keep in mind when travelling the Youbou route?

A. Drivers must come prepared for gravel road conditions. Here are some tips to keep in mind when heading out:

- Always expect the unexpected, and give yourself more time on your trip than expected
- Make sure you familiarize yourself with the route before leaving, as cell service is unreliable
- Check in with someone when you leave and when you arrive at your destination
- Ensure you have at least one spare tire, and that you know how to change it



- Make sure your tank is full, so you are prepared should something go wrong
  - Bring extra provisions such as snacks, water, blankets, clothing, etc
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### **Q. Does Bamfield and Anacla have power?** (Updated August 23, 2025)

A: Yes, power has now been restored effective, August 23, 2025. Visit [www.bchydro.com/power-outages](http://www.bchydro.com/power-outages) for the latest information on power outages.

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### **Q. Can I travel to the Bamfield and Anacla areas?**

A: On August 20, 2025, it was announced that Bamfield and the surrounding area is now open for business and ready for visitors to return to the community and surrounding area. The Youbou Road route remains open. For road maps that include closures, go to: [2025 Mount Underwood Wildfire](#).

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### **Q. How can I help?**

A: The ACRD is receiving many offers of help and land use. Your information will be recorded, and you may be contacted if assistance is needed.

To help in the future, consider becoming an Emergency Support Services volunteer. For more information, go to ACRD [Emergency Support Services](#).

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### **Q. I still have a question that hasn't been answered, who can I talk to?**

A: Please call the ACRD Emergency Operations Centre call line 250-720-2738 from 8 am- 5 pm.



**Q. Can I use a drone to see the wildfire?** (Updated August 23, 2025)

A: No, the use of drones negatively impacts the ability to fight the fire and puts aircraft personnel at risk and jeopardizes the fire fighting efforts. Please respect the agencies responding to this wildfire.

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**Q. What is the air quality for the Alberni Valley?** (Updated August 23, 2025)

A: Smoke from the wildfire continues to affect Port Alberni and surrounding areas. BC Wildfire Services states that poor air quality may increase as the weather temperature increase. When there is poor air quality, residents are advised to limit outdoor exposure, especially for vulnerable groups (e.g. children, older adults, individuals with respiratory conditions). Air Quality Information can be found here: [Air quality warnings](#).

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**Q. How can I deal with food waste due to the Power Outage?** (Updated August 14, 2025)

During this period of prolonged power outage, there are some residents who will experience the loss of perishable foods that are stored in fridges and freezers. The following notice includes:

- Tips for how to use or safely dispose of spoiled refrigerated or frozen foods
- An updated schedule for waste pick-up effective immediately
- A reminder regarding home insurance policies

*Safe Disposal or Use of Frozen Food During Power Outage*

If your freezer has been without power for an extended period of time, here are steps you can take to safely handle the food:



## ACRD Emergency Operations Centre

### Step 1: Assess the Food

- Check for signs of spoilage: If the food still feels cold or has ice crystals, it may be safe to cook.
- If the food smells off, has changed color, or texture, it's best to dispose of it.

### Step 2: Use What You Can

- Cook and consume any food that is still safe.
- Share with others: If you're unable to cook it yourself, consider offering it to someone who can. This helps reduce waste and supports the community.

### Step 3: Donate Usable Food

- If you have food that is still safe, but you cannot use it, you may donate it to anyone who would cook it to support themselves or others.

### Step 4: Dispose of Spoiled Food Properly

- Do not leave spoiled food in your freezer – this can lead to odor and contamination.
- Dispose of spoiled meat and other organic waste as you typically would.
- Wrap and bag any garbage securely to prevent animals from accessing it.
- Ensure all waste is placed in the appropriate bins for pickup or drop-off.
- We are working to provide an additional bin on the West Side for residents, and to have the usual spot at the Transfer Station available for the East Side.

### Emergency Period Waste Disposal Schedule:

Waste collection will occur weekly on the Eastside, following the usual schedule, with additional pickups scheduled as necessary. For the Westside, extra pickups will be provided through [Lady Rose Marine](#) to accommodate the increased demand.

### Home Insurance:



Please note that some home insurance policies have a provision and coverage for spoiled foods as a result of prolonged power outage. Please remember to review your policy or to contact your insurance broker to find out if you have the coverage.

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**Q: What are trusted sources of information for this incident?** (Updated August 18, 2025)

A: The following official webpages and organizations are reliable primary sources. They provide current and accurate information about the Mount Underwood Wildfire and other related subjects.

*Fire safety and information:*

- BC Wildfire Service: [Wildfire Service - Province of British Columbia](#) and [BC Wildfire Service](#)
- General health around wildfires: [Wildfires | Island Health](#)

*Heat and air quality information:*

- Safety during extreme heat: [Heat-related illness | HealthLink BC](#) and [Extreme heat events: How to protect yourself from the health effects of extreme heat - Canada.ca](#)
- Weather forecast air quality: [Port Alberni, BC - 7 Day Forecast - Environment Canada](#)
- Air quality: [Air - Province of British Columbia](#)

*Power outage information:*

- Power outage food safety: [food-safety-after-power-outage.pdf](#)
- Power outage locations: [Outage map](#)

*Preparedness for evacuation and emergency support service information:*

- Evacuation information: [Emergency evacuee guidance for the public - Province of British Columbia](#)
- Emergency ready plan: [Make Your Emergency Ready Plan](#)
- Emergency kit and grab and go bag: [Build an emergency kit and grab-and-go bag - Province of British Columbia](#)



- Preparing your home before evacuation: [FireSmart Canada Wildfire Evacuation Checklist](#)
- General emergency preparedness: [Public emergency preparation and recovery - Province of British Columbia](#)
- General emergency information: [EmergencyInfoBC Home - EmergencyInfoBC](#)
- Emergency Support Services (ESS): [Emergency Support Services Homepage Emergency Support Services Homepage - Emergency Support Services](#)
- ESS registration: [EMCR ERA Registrant Portal](#)

### *Road access information:*

- Road conditions: [DriveBC](#)

For more information on the Mount Underwood fire, visit <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/mount-underwood-wildfire>.

To be notified of new Evacuation Orders, Alerts, or Rescinded Evacuations, sign up for Voyent Alert!, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District's emergency notification system: [https://www.acrd.bc.ca/emergency\\_alerts](https://www.acrd.bc.ca/emergency_alerts).

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**Q: What is the difference between an Evacuation Alert and an Evacuation Order? (Updated August 18, 2025)**

A: Whether an Evacuation Alert or Order will be issued depends on the severity of the situation. According to the BC Government Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness,

- **Evacuation Alert** means "Be ready to leave on short notice."
- **Evacuation Order** means "You are at risk. Leave the area immediately."

If your area is under **Evacuation Alert**, you should prepare to leave on short notice. Prepare a [Grab and Go bag](#), including at least 72 hours of food and water, and ensure your family members and pets are ready to leave if needed. If you have time, you can take [last-minute steps to prepare your home](#).



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If your area is under **Evacuation Order**, you must leave the area immediately. Bring your children and pets and help those needing special assistance. If you have already prepared a Grab and Go bag, bring it with you. More information on Evacuation Orders is available [here](#).

If evacuated, **do not return to the area** until you receive an official notification that the **Evacuation is Rescinded or downgraded to an Alert**:

- **Evacuation Rescinded:** The risk to life and safety has now passed.
- **Evacuation Downgraded to an Alert:** You can return, but be ready to leave on short notice